IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Honorable Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. \$1.113(c) AND \$1.116

Sir:

In reply to the Office action of November 14, 2006, it is respectfully requested that the following remarks and the attached amendments¹⁾ be entered and considered for further prosecution of the above-identified application:

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

NOVAK_DRUCE DELUCA & QUIGG

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Encl.: CLAIM AMENDMENTS (Appendix I)

JBL/BAS

¹⁾ Cf. the Claim Amendments set forth in Appendix I on pages 6 to 8 of this paper.